

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A buckle comprising:

a male portion; and

a female portion having a top face, a bottom face and a cavity for accepting the male portion,

wherein the male portion is adapted to snap into the female portion to lock the two portions of the buckle together; and

wherein at least part of at least one face of the female portion is formed from a screen made of the same material as the rest of the female portion and integrally molded with the female portion and wherein the screen is surrounded by a rib having a thickness greater than the thickness of the face containing the screen.

Claim 2 (Original); The buckle according to claim 1, further comprising a rib disposed along an underside of said at least one face, said rib extending across the screen to support the part of the buckle containing the screen.

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Claim 3 (Original): The buckle according to claim 2, wherein there are two ribs disposed on an underside of each of the top and bottom faces, said ribs facing each other and extending in a longitudinal direction, and acting as a guide for the male portion when the male portion is inserted into the female portion.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Original): The buckle according to claim 1, further comprising at least one strap attachment bar connected to at least one of the male portion and female portion.

Claim 6 (Original): The buckle according to claim 1, wherein the screen comprises a plurality of crossed bars, defining a set of substantially uniformly spaced holes between the bars.

Claim 7 (Original): The buckle according to claim 1, wherein the buckle is a side-release type buckle, with the male portion having two release tabs that snap into two locking slots on the female portion to lock the male portion to the female portion, and wherein pressing the release tabs causes the male portion to

be ejected from the female portion.

Claim 8 (Original): The buckle according to claim 1, wherein both the top and bottom faces have a screen.

Claim 9: (Canceled).